

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An isolated VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide devoid of a VEGFR-1 binding activity.
2. The isolated VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:4.
3. The isolated VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding to VEGFR-2.
4. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding a VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide devoid of a VEGFR-1 binding activity.
5. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:2.
6. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide is at least 90 % homologous to the polynucleotide sequence set forth by SEQ ID NO:1 as determined using the BlastN software of the National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) using default parameters.
7. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide exhibits a VEGFR-2 binding activity.
8. A nucleic acid construct comprising the isolated polynucleotide of claim 4.
9. The nucleic acid construct of claim 8, further comprising a promoter for directing expression of the isolated polynucleotide in mammalian cells.
10. The nucleic acid construct of claim 9, wherein said promoter is an endothelial cell specific promoter.

11. A method of promoting re-endothelialization in a tissue of an individual comprising providing to the tissue of the individual a VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide exhibiting a VEGFR-2 binding activity and lacking a VEGFR-1 binding activity thereby promoting re-endothelialization in the tissue of the individual.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said tissue is selected from the group consisting of an artery and a vein.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:4.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said providing is effected by administering said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide into the tissue of the individual.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said providing is effected by expressing a polynucleotide encoding said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide in the tissue of the individual.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said polynucleotide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:2.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said polynucleotide at least 90 % homologous to the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 as determined using the BlastN software of the National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) using default parameters.

18. A method of preventing and/or treating restenosis in an individual in need thereof comprising providing to the individual a VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide exhibiting a VEGFR-2 binding activity and lacking a VEGFR-1 binding activity thereby preventing and/or treating restenosis in the individual in need thereof.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:4.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said providing is effected by administering said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide into the individual.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said providing is effected by expressing a polynucleotide encoding said VEGF₁₄₅ polypeptide in an artery and/or a vein of the individual.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said polynucleotide is set forth by SEQ ID NO:2.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein said polynucleotide at least 90 % homologous to the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 as determined using the BlastN software of the National Center of Biotechnology Information (NCBI) using default parameters.